

RENGA*

in tribute to Amilcar Cabral

The stillness of dawn,
Crashing between the branches,
A world of revolution.
Paradox and expectation:
Justuposed in terrifying radiance.

One half century
They had you among them.
Perhaps that was enough;
Perhaps a sequence of poems,
Once begun in *renga*
Will never end.

Still, it is hard
Not to feel cheated,
Knowing that you
Might have been with us
Another half century,
Linking the poems
Of generations.

(*The Japanese *renga* is a sequence of poems in which unequal links of three and two lines are written by two or more poets. Any given link of the *renga* must form a poem with that which precedes it, and this poem must be different from the one it forms with the link following it.)

Sondra Hale

Sondra Hale, one of the founding editors of this journal, is completing a Ph.D. dissertation on the Sudan for the Anthropology Department of UCLA. In 1964 she published a volume of poetry, *Goodbye, Sudan*. She lectures, part-time, at Cal State, Northridge.